

**REMARKS**

This paper is filed responsive to the Office Action mailed November 19, 2003. Presently, claims 1, 7 to 10 and 13 to 28 are pending in the application. Claims 2 to 5, 11 and 12 have been cancelled, and claims 21 to 28 have been added by the present amendment. Claims 1 to 6, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Curutchet U.S. Patent No. 3,393,680. Claims 1 to 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Baumgarten U.S. Patent No. 3,913,586. Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Curutchet. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Baumgarten. Claims 16 to 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Schad (WO 96/30058) in view of Curutchet. Claims 11 and 12 stand objected to.

Claims 7, 13, 19 and 20 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and request reconsideration and reexamination of the application.

The Examiner has objected to Claims 11 and 12. These claims have been cancelled.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication by the Examiner that Claims 7 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form containing all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. These claims have been so amended.

The Examiner has made several rejections over prior art comprising forceps having grooved jaws. The claims, as presently amended, distinguish over this prior art. The amended claims focus on providing projections at the contact area at the pivot point. This feature is not shown in the prior art identified by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and request favorable reconsideration and early notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Andrew C. Farmer  
Reg. No. 35,868

Johnson & Johnson  
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza  
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003  
(732) 524-2825  
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